

40290-0009

10/622,183

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed June 27, 2006, which imposed a Restriction Requirement in the present application. Accordingly, Applicant makes the following election and requests that examination of the elected claims on their merits be promptly conducted in light of the following remarks.

Prior to discussing the Restriction Requirement, Applicant wishes to note that the Office Action is incorrect as to the claims that are pending. According to the Office Action, claims 21-54 are pending. This is incorrect.

On October 2, 2003, Applicant filed a preliminary amendment. This preliminary amendment was received by the U.S. Patent Office and is accessible in the Image File Wrapper for this application. In, the preliminary amendment of October 2, 2003, claims 55-59 were added, and claims 30, 31 and 37-46 were cancelled. However, Applicant has reintroduced claims 41-46 in the present paper. Thus, the pending claims are 21-29, 32-36 and 41-59

In the recent Office Action, the Office alleges that the present application contains claims drawn to two independent and patentably distinct inventions. The claims are grouped as follows:

Claim Group 1: Claims 21-40, which are characterized by the Action as method claims; and

Claim Group 2: Claims 41-54, which are characterized by the Action as device claims.

In response, Applicant elects Claim Group 2, the device claims, for immediate examination. Thus, claims 41-54 are presented for immediate examination. All other claims are labeled as "withdrawn" herein.

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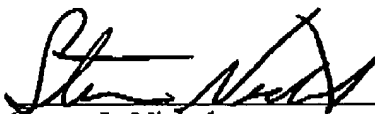
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Applicant does not disclaim the subject matter of any withdrawn claim and reserves the right to file any number of continuation or divisional applications to the withdrawn claims or to any other subject matter described in the present application.

An examination of claims 41-54 on their merits is now respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: July 27, 2006


  
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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number **571-273-8300** on **July 27, 2006**. Number of Pages: **15**

  
Rebecca R. Schow